

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /080 W

-----090385 270437Z /21

R 270324Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2715

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, ID, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS INDONESIA

REF : JAKARTA 09842 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITED INDONESIA JULY 20-24 TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST. DURING STAY IN JAKARTA, KHADDAM DELIVERED PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ASSAD TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO (WHICH INTER-ALIA INVITED LATTER TO VISIT SYRIA IN OCTOBER), HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN ADAM MALIK AND OTHER INDONESIAN OFFICIALS, AND SIGNED BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT. IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE SYRIA ENDORSED TIMOR INTEGRATION AND ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT OBTAINING IN RETURN PERHAPS A REFERENCE TO ISRAELI "AGGRESSIVENESS." NEND SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUL HALIM KHADDAM,
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ACCOMPANIES BY N.M. BASHA, DIRECTOR OF ASIAN AFFAIRS OF SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND A.S. AKIL, HEAD OF THE MINISTERIAL CABINET, PAID OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDONESIA JULY 20-24 TO DISCUSS BILATERAL REALATIONS, LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND BILATERAL COOPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. DURING HIS CALL ON PRESIDENT SUHARTO, KHADDAM DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM SYRIAN

PRESIDENT ASSAD WHICH INTER ALIA INCLUDED PERSONAL INVITATION TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND HIS WIFE TO VISIT SYRIA IN OCTOBER, 1977. THIS INVITATION TO VISIT SYRIA COINCIDES WITH SUHARTO'S PLANS TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, EGYPT AND PERHAPS PERSIAN GULF SHEIKDOMS AS WELL.

3. DURING HIS STAY IN JAKARTA, KHADDAM ALSO HELD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN ADAM MALIK AND MET WITH RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER MUKTI ALI AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER WIDJOJO NITISASTRO. ON JULY 21, KHADDAM AND MALIK SIGNED AND EXCHANGED RATIFIED DOCUMENTS ON BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT.

4. FONMIN KHADDAM, WHO TERMED HIS VISIT TO INDONESIA AS "SUCCESSFUL AND FRUITFUL," MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON JULY 22 IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES:

(A) EAST TIMOR: IN REPLY TO QUESTION WHETHER SYRIA WILL SUPPORT INDONESIA ON EAST TIMOR ISSUE AT UN, KHADDAM SAID ONLY THAT "WE UNDERSTAND YOUR POINT OF VIEW AND WE WILL CERTAINLY NOT BE AGAINST YOU."

(B) MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS: KHADDAM TOLD PRESS HE HAD "USEFUL DISCUSSIONS" WITH INDONESIAN OFFICIALS ON MIDDLE EAST. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, KHADDAM SAID THAT NOTHING NEW HAD COME OUT OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S RECENT VISIT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US AND REITERATED KEY ISSUES THAT REMAINED TO BE RESOLVED. SYRIA'S CONDITIONS FOR PEACE, HE SAID, "ARE THAT ISRAELIS SHOULD WITHDRAW ALL THEIR TROOPS FROM THE ARAB OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND THEN RESTORE THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."

(C) TRADE AGREEMENT: KHADDAM ADMITTED THAT UNTIL NOW BILATERAL TRADE WITH INDONESIA HAD BEEN CONDUCTED THROUGH "A THIRD COUNTRY," BUT STATED HIS BELIEF THAT THE SIGNING OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT " CONSTITUTED A NEW STEP IN INDONESIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS AND WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE THE VOLUME OF TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, INDONESIAN PRODUCTS MOST IN DEMAND IN SYRIA ARE TIMBER,SPICES AND PALM OIL. SYRIAN TRADE TO INDONESIA IS NEGLIGIBLE AND IS LIKELY TO REMAIN SO.

5. FOLLOWING IS SUBSTANCE OF SYRIAN-INDONESIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED JULY 26 AS PUBLISHED BY ANTARA:

(A) NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE: BOTH SYRIA AND INDONESIA ARE DETERMINED "TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THE IMPLEMENTATION

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OF RESOLUTIONS REACHED AT THE CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED
POWERS AND TO THE MATERIALIZATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC ORDER."

(B) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: BOTH NATIONS POINTED UP
"THE NEED FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF CLOSE RELATIONS AMONG
NATIONS ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND SOVERIEGNTY
WITHOUT INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THEIR
COUNTRIES" AND TO DISCOURAGE "SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS."

(C) MIDDLE EAST CRISIS: INDONESIA AND SYRIA "AGREED THAT
ISRAEL SHOULD END ITS AGRESSIVENESS TO ENABLE A SETTLEMENT
OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS."

(D) EAST TIMOR: "SYRIA ENDORSED THE INTERGRATION OF
EAST TIMOR INTO THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA."

(E) ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT: SYRIA REAFFIRMED ITS SUPPORT OF
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THE INDONESIAN ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT AND HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE
UN AND THE ARAB LEAGUE AND HAS PLEDGED TO TAKE THE MATTER UP
AGAIN AT THE NEXT LOS CONVENTION.

(F) BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: BOTH NATIONS HAVE
AGREED TO PERSEVERE IN "DEVELOPING DIRECT TRADE BETWEEN
THEM, THROUGH THE DESPATCH OF TRADE MISSIONS BOTH BY THE
GOVERNMENT AND BY THE RESPECTIVE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE."

6. COMMENT: POLITICAL ISSUES PROBABLY DOMINATED SYRIAN-
INDONESIAN DISCUSSIONS DESPITE FREQUENT REFERENCE TO ECONOMIC
MATTERS. ONE JAKARTA NEWSPAPER PROBABLY CORRECT IN SAYING
THAT KHADDAM'S VISIT WAS PART OF SYRIAN EFFORT TO BRING
ARAB CASE TO THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AND TO PRESSURE FOR AN
EARLY CONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE "TO ACHIEVE A
LASTING SOLUTION." DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE
(TWO DAYS AFTER DEPARTURE OF KHADDAM) AND CONTRAST
BETWEEN KHADDAM'S COMMENTS TO PRESS AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE
ON MIDDLE EAST SUGGEST THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME HEAVY
BARGAINING. SINCE REFERENCE TO ISRAELI "AGGRESSIVENESS"
WOULD SEEM TO BE CHEAP PRICE TO PAY FOR ENDORSEMENT
OF TIMOR INTEGRATION AND ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT, GOI APPEARS
TO HAVE GOT BEST OF DEAL. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

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